

# The Statesman

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## On the wings of growth

DEVELOPING NEW TECHNOLOGY IN THE AVIATION SECTOR, SPACE EXPLORATION AND DEFENCE SYSTEMS HAVE GENERATED THE NEED FOR AERONAUTICAL AND AEROSPACE ENGINEERS, SAYS  
**NGR IYENGAR**

**T**he aviation sector truly encourages the concept of global village, enhancing connectivity and access to international markets. While being extremely resourceful to the community and facilitating growth of the economy, it has become a key impetus of social development and tourism.

Currently, India is ranked the ninth largest aviation market in the world, exquisitely handling 121 million domestic and 41 million international passengers with more than 85 international airlines operating and five Indian carriers connecting over 40 countries. The country has over 1,700 flights taking off per week from 25 Indian airports out of which 72 are passenger carriers, while nine are cargo operators. 800 flights take off per day from the Delhi International Airport.

The surge in Indian Aviation business is amplifying with a rapidly growing air transport network and opening the airport to the private sector.

The future prospects of the Indian civil aviation segment appear to be brighter with a series of healthy developments such as change in government policy, allowing foreign airlines to invest stakes in Indian carriers.

This flexibility has yielded positive outcomes such as the Jet-Ethiad deal, AirAsia India, and Tata-Singapore Airlines ventures. It is expected that these major collaborations of 2013 will produce fruitful results in the coming years. The Civil Aviation Ministry has also undertaken various measures to convince all state governments to rationalise the taxes on aviation turbine fuel.

This reduction in fuel price will cause the air activity in the states to increase, which in turn will create employment opportunities and a buoyant growth in the economy.

India has already witnessed the Ethiad—Jet Airways deal. The Abu Dhabi-based Ethiad Airways became the first foreign carrier to invest in the Indian sector which bought a 24 per cent stake in Jet Airways for 2,069 crore.

With this, Ethiad has doubled its services to Mumbai and New Delhi connecting Indian passengers and freight to different parts of the world. This is only the beginning with AirAsia and Tata and Singapore Airlines joining hands to start a budget carrier. Tata-SIA venture intends to set up a new full-service private carrier based in New Delhi. And the

biggest event in 2014 will be the inauguration and expansion of commercial operations by four global airlines — Ethiad, AirAsia, Singapore Airlines and Tiger Airways — along with their Indian partners. These developments, apart from leading to competition on a larger scale will introduce global best practices and a platter of choices for passengers.

These recent developments in the aviation industry have given a major boost to air con-



nectivity in Tier II and III cities. The Indian government has also approved extensive policies that intend to create international and regional aviation hubs in the country. The Indian government's decision to privatise six airports, apart from developing and managing 20 airports under the public private partnership model is a major landmark that will mark the growth of Indian domestic aviation industry. The growth of the private airline industry in India has led to a steep rise in the number of private airlines and airports in the country today.

Quite evidently, private airlines have been living up to the reputation of being a humongous employment generator considering the ample number of employment opportunities the sector offers. An investment of \$12.1 billion for airports during the 12<sup>th</sup> Plan (2012-17) by the government will simultaneously unfold domestic business opportunities.

The aviation industry with its impressive growth prospects will soon bring in tremendous employment opportunities. There is need to initiate industry ready skills in students to meet the need for competent talent

and skilled work force in this sector. Every discipline starting from pilots, cabin crew, engineers, air traffic controllers, ground staff and handlers, administration and management, aerospace engineering, aviation business managers will be topping the demand chart of recruiters.

It's the ideal time for the Indian youth to explore the conventional and unconventional career prospects and job opportunities in challenging areas of aviation industry. Institutes of higher education in India have already started highlighting the scope of aviation industry in their academic curricula and courses from basic to research level.

Indian aviation will also have new maintenance, repair and overhaul facilities coming in anticipation of the investments up to \$ 30 billion by 2020, which will prove to be the ultimate employment boost for aerospace engineers. In order to amplify the aviation business and match up with the standards of the global aviation industry, the personnel recruited to serve in the aviation sector need to have a high degree of technical knowledge, competence, proficiency, dexterity and integrity.

Development of new technology in this sector, space exploration and defense systems have generated the need for aeronautical/aerospace engineers. The engineering division in the aviation sector is responsible for ensuring that aircrafts are fit to fly and specialises in the development, maintenance and research of commercial and military aircraft, missiles, spaceships, spacecrafts et al. This has opened vast research opportunities in both government and private industries for aeronautical engineering.

The career roles in the aerospace industry can be grouped under broad categories of managers, analysts, consultants, scientists, and maintenance and design engineers. As technical jobs for the aviation sector selling like hot cakes, the opportunities for Btech and Mtech newbies with different specialisations are booming.

At the same time people in the industry looking for a shift in managerial jobs, suited to the requirements of aviation, are also on the rise. The heave over increasing hangars and airports and their subsequent modernisation stresses the importance of having the right person at the right place and the need of the hour is to build capability in India along with the progress of the economy.

THE WRITER IS DIRECTOR, INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF AEROSPACE ENGINEERING AND MANAGEMENT, JAIN UNIVERSITY

